

Seizure of Explosives in Chitoor

1924. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in first week of July, 2000, huge explosives were seized in Chitoor District of Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the exemplary punishment proposed to deter such activities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) As per information furnished by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, 40 boxes containing 1000 Kgs. of Gelatine and 4 boxes of Safety Fuse Wire were seized by the authorities on 3-7-2000 in Chittoor district. Nallabolu Hemanta Reddy, an explosives dealer, purchased 1000 kgs. of Gelatine and 4 boxes of Safety, Fuse Wire from M/s Vijaya Enterprises, a licenced dealer of Bhongir Sub-Division, Nalgonda District, which was destined for his magazines situated at Umapuram. However, Shri Reddy diverted the consignment to Ruthvic Constructions Camp at Penumur (Chitoor District) where work on Kalavagunta Reservoir is in progress. After due verification of papers Police registered a case in Cr. No. 71/2000, u/s 9(B)(1)(b) of Explosives Act, 1984, seized the vehicle, arrested the driver and subsequently on 12-7-2000 arrested Hemanta Reddy also. Under the Provisions of Explosives Act, possession, use, sale and transportation of an explosive in contravention of rules framed under the provision of the Act are punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years or with fine which may extend to three thousand rupees or with both. The prescribed quantum of punishment under law is quite deterrent.